(b) if so, the names of the organisations which have been given such aid so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Under the Central Scheme of Aid to Voluntary Organisations, grant-in-aid is given direct to the voluntary organisations of all India character engaged in the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for taking up specific schemes for the benefit of these communities.

(b) Grant-in-aid has been given to the following organisations so far during the current financial year:—

1. 'Jagran', Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.

2. Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Puri.

Abolition of Sales Tax on Bangles.

1182. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased refer to the reply to Starred Question 342 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 1983 and state:

(a) whether Govemnment have taken up the question of abolition of Sales Tax on bangles with the Delhi Administration and the State Governmetns of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the detils of the discussions held in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c) At the instance of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Delhi Administration had invited the views of the neighbouring States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh regardng abolition of Sales Tax on bangles. The States of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Prdesh have informed that they are not in favour of gant of exemption from Sales Tax on bangles. No reply has been received from the Government of Punjab.

The matter was also considered by the Delhi Administration and it was decided that in view of the posision prevaling in the neghbouring States, bangles may not be exempted from the levy of Sales Tax.

Memorandum received from the association Bangle manufacturers

1183. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any memorandum from the Association of Bangle Manufacturers in Delhi about abolition of Sales Tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c) A memorandum was recently received from the Delhi Pradesh Bangle Merchants' Association pleading for abolition of Sales Tax on bangles in the UT of Delhi on the following consideration:—

(i) That this trade is carried on mostly by illiterate or semi-illiterate persons belonging to poorer clases of minority communities.

(ii) That manufacture of this item is done in individual houses and very often is a family concern of some poor man.

(iii) That the persons find it very difficult to keep account. More so the account books which can be shown to Government Department like Sales Tax, Income Tax.

(iv) That the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, M.P., Gujarat, Bihar, Bengal Maharashtra and Orissa have alredy abolished Sales tax on bangles.

(v) That the bangle industry in Delhi is suffering loss as the traders from different parts of the country prefer to buy their goods from Bombay etc.

(vi) That there are 27 dealers in bangles who pay nearly Rs. 1 lakh per year to the Delhi Administration by way of Sales Tax and due to inadvertence, the dealers may violate Government regulation on Sales Tax and invite the wrath of the Sales Tax Department.

The matter was considered by the Delhi Administration and it was decided that in view of the position prevailing in the neighbouring States Bangles may not be exempted from the levy of Sales Tax.

Sri Lanka's proposal to Hire British Mercenaries

1184. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that Sri Lanka is planning to hire British mercenaries for tackling what they call 'Tamil terrorism';

(b) whether Government have ascertained the facts and taken up the matter with British and Sri Lanka Governments; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of these Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Government are aware that the Sri Lankan Government are seeking assistance of British security experts for imparting training to the Sri Lankan security forces.

(b) and (c) Government have taken up this matter with the Government of the UK who deny any governmental involvement saying that a private British company may be involved.

Death of Animals in National Parks due to the indiscriminate use of tranquilizer guns

1185. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that indiscriminate use of tranquillizer guns has led to the death of animals in large numbers in National Parks;

(b) if so, whether Government contemplate to institute a probe into these cases; and

(c) whether staff responsible for capturing wild animals are adequately trained and if so, whether they are required to undergo orientation courses to update their training and knowledge on the subject?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Necessary training has been imparted to selected staff.

Meeting of the heads in the public sector undertakings of the Department of Mines

1186. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:
SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a meeting of the heads of the public sector undertakings of the Department of Mines was held in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what were the subjects discussed at this meeting; and

(c) whether as a result of the discussions any concrete steps are proposed to be taken to increase the production of steel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) and (b)